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CIA: The Secret Policymakers

An important footnote to Sen. Fulbright's critical analysis of our Dominicanintervention has been provided by Scn. Joseph Clark. In a Senate speech Clark has bluntly asserted that the military junta that appealed to Ambassador Bennett for American troops was formed "at the instance of the CIA."

Scn. Morse provided additional information on the role of the CIA. As chairman of a Scnate subcommittee on Latin America, he told the Scnate, he was aware of "some of the conduct of the CIA in Latin America." The agency "has much for which to answer in the deterioration of America's image in South and Central America," he declared.

"The CIA must assume responsibility, in considerable share, for what I consider to be the mismanagement of our policy in the Dominican Republic."

A few weeks ago, following Singapore Premier Lee's disclosure of the CIA attempt to bribe him and Secretary Rusk's awkward apology, there were comparable complaints that CIA operations in South Asia had managed to infuriate non-Communist leaders in Burma, Cambodia and Indonesia. An agency that succeeds in damaging our relations with key areas in South Asia and Latin America surely warrants Congressional inquiry.

Yet when Sen. Young arose this week to demand that the CIA be made accountable to Congress, only Sen. Morse supported his plea.

When Congress created the CIA in 1947, Sen. Young recalled, the agency was given no power to formulate foreign policy; yet that is what it has been doing under the "cloak of secrecy."

It is the duty of Congress, Young pleaded, to assert its authority over the CIA, in accordance with the provisions and intent of the Constitution. His plea for a Congressional "watchdog" group was convincingly phrased. But it encountered wassive silence.